



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
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Ref: Army/Sec/05/04/FOI2019/08228

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Mr Jonathon Douglas
[request-587116-](#)
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16 August 2019

Dear Mr Douglas

Thank you for your email of 4 July which you clarified on 15 Jul in which you requested the following documents:

- *Army Field Manual War Fighting Tactics Part 5a: Armoured and Armoured Infantry Sub Unit Tactics*
- *Health Service Support to Land Operations Handbook*

I advised you in my letter dated 31 Jul that your request was being considered under the Freedom of Information Act (the Act) and that the MOD holds documents within its scope. I can confirm that the information held in scope of your request is exempt under Section 14 of the Act (Vexatious and Burdensome) and is therefore being withheld.

Under Section 14(1) of the Act, public authorities do not have to comply with requests if they are deemed excessively burdensome. The documents requested contain over 330 pages in total and contain a substantial quantity of information which would potentially be exempt. Because it is scattered throughout the material the sensitive information cannot easily be isolated. As such, we judge that reviewing and preparing these documents for release would be an excessive burden. This means that the Department has no obligation to comply with this request.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), I am obliged to advise you on ways in which you could refine your request to make it less of a burden on the department. As our assessment is based on the total of both of the requested documents, you could refine your request to ask for them individually. I would however ask that you submit your requests at separate intervals in order to reduce the burden on the Department in responding to them. Guidance suggests a separation of 60 working days between requests. Please also be aware that even if you were to refine your request and ask for these documents individually, significant amounts of information in the documents would fall under Section 26 (Defence) of the Act and, subject to a public interest test, are likely to be withheld.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat